



**FAQ Number:** 653

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**Question:** What will DHS do with the information it obtains?

**Answer:**

Section 550(c) of the DHS Appropriations Act of 2007 states that protecting sensitive information gathered during the CFATS process from public disclosure is crucial to DHS' ability to ensure that high risk chemical facilities are secure. Therefore, information submitted by facilities is protected as Critical-terrorism Vulnerability Information (CVI).

Through the use of CVI, the dissemination of such sensitive information to parties without a need to know can be avoided. In addition, the limited and controlled exchange of CVI is essential for effective partnering and information-sharing between government and industry.

DHS is balancing justified information protection concerns with the desire to enhance appropriate information sharing by ensuring that entities or individuals with a "need to know," including appropriate State and local officials, have access to the necessary CVI, while, at the same time, protecting CVI from public disclosure that would undermine the government's ability to ensure the security of chemical facilities.